
LESSON 17

CAMPAIGN ANALYSIS: PERSIAN GULF WAR

Introduction

Purpose	The purpose of this lesson is to conduct a campaign analysis of the Persian Gulf War to learn from the successes and mistakes made during this joint, multinational combat operation.
Importance of the Study	To analyze a campaign, use your analytical skills and show your ability to synthesize the lessons you've learned so far. The successes of Operations <i>Desert Shield</i> and <i>Desert Storm</i> illustrate the dynamics of campaign planning and the execution of a campaign at the operational level of war. The study and analysis of past campaigns will help you understand how you can envision and design a campaign in the future.
Relationship to Other Lessons	This lesson provides you the opportunity to conduct a campaign analysis of the Persian Gulf War using the information you have studied throughout this course.
Study Time	This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 26 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Capabilities and Limitations	Comprehend the capabilities and limitations of U.S. military forces as illustrated by <i>Desert Storm</i> . [JPME Area 1a]
Framework	Explain the organizational framework within which joint forces are employed. [JPME Area 1b]
Organization	Comprehend how the U.S. military is organized within that framework to conduct joint and multinational operations. [JPME Area 1e]
Considerations	Summarize the considerations of employing joint and multinational forces at the operational level of war. [JPME Area 3a]
Theory and Principles of War	Using <i>Desert Storm</i> to illustrate, explain how the theory and principles of war apply at the operational level of war. [JPME Area 3b]
Plan to Employ Joint Forces	Develop an understanding of the planning process for the employment of joint forces at the operational level of war. [JPME Area 3c]
National Objectives, Military Objectives, and Conflict Termination	Using the Gulf War as an example, explain the link between national objectives in support of military objectives and the importance of defined conflict termination. [JPME Area 3d]

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Educational Objectives, Continued

National Objectives and Means Availability	Through the framework provided by joint planning processes, explain the relationship between national objectives and means availability. [JPME Area 4a]
Effects on Planning Process	Comprehend the effects of time, coordination, policy changes, and political development on the planning process. [JPME Area 4b]
National Intelligence Organizations	Explain how national intelligence organizations support JFCs. [JPME Area 4c]
Campaign Planning Fundamentals	Comprehend the fundamentals of campaign planning. [JPME Area 4e]
National Policy Objectives	Analyze the U.S. national policy objectives that were realized from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
National Strategy and Theater Objectives	Summarize the national strategy objectives and the theater objectives in the Persian Gulf. Describe their relationship. [JPME Area 3d]
Campaign Planning for Offensive Combat Ops	Analyze the campaign planning for the execution of offensive combat operations against the Iraqi forces. [JPME Area 3d]

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Educational Objectives, Continued

JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	1/a/2 1/b/2 1/e/2 3/a/2 3/b/2 3/c/2 3/d/3 4/a/3 4/b/2 4/c/2 4/e/2
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Analysis of the Gulf War At the Operational Level

Background The Gulf War was the largest deployment of American troops since the Second World War. The Gulf War can be used as an excellent case study to examine the operational level of war issues.

Considerations In your reading of *The General's War*, by Michael R. Gordon and General Bernard E. Trainor, USMC (Ret.), consider the following issues:

- The mission presented to the CINC from the NCA
 - The composting of forces
 - The role of the service chiefs
 - The development of the campaign plan
 - The execution of the campaign plan
 - The role of the JFACC
 - The desired end-state presented to the CINC from the NCA
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Guidance

Background

The Persian Gulf War is an excellent example of how the U.S. planned and executed a joint and multinational combat operation at the operational level of war. The desert terrain enabled the U.S. and coalition forces to effectively use their technological advantages to track, locate, neutralize, and destroy numerous Iraqi forces. The U.S. forces had another significant advantage. Their senior commanders and planners understood and could apply operational art and the operational functions to achieve decisive results.

As you conduct your analysis, use the joint doctrine provided to you and focus on the elements of the operational level of war:

- Operational art
 - Campaign planning
 - Synchronization
 - Operational functions
 - Command relationships
 - Deliberate and crisis action planning
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Required Readings

***Operational
Level of War
Readings***

Strategic and Combat Studies Institute. *The Levels of War, Operational Art and Campaign Planning Occasional Paper, No. 5*. Surrey: Great Britain, 1993. Read the entire work. Find this reading in the *Operational Level of War Readings*, Annex D, pp. D-3 to D-26. Use this concise guide to assist you in your analysis of the Persian Gulf War.

***The General's
War. The Inside
Story of the
Conflict in
the Gulf***

Gordon, Michael R. and Trainor, Bernard. *The General's War. The Inside Story of the Conflict in the Gulf*. Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1995. Read the entire work. This book offers an overview and analysis of the political and military factors that shaped the planning and execution of the Gulf War.

For Further Study

Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

Department of Defense, Final Report to Congress on the Conduct of the Persian Gulf War. Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, April 1992.

Office of the Chief of Staff U.S. Army, Certain Victory: The US Army in the Gulf War. Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1993.

Warden, John A. III, The Air Campaign. Washington, D.C: National Defense University, 1993

Issues For Consideration

U.S. National Policy Objectives

Describe the U.S. national policy objectives that were initiated as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Military Objectives

Discuss the military objectives for the execution of Operation *Desert Shield*. How did they support the national objectives? What was their relationship to means availability?

Campaign Planning

Describe the campaign planning by USCINCCENT for the conduct of offensive combat operations against Iraqi forces in the Kuwaiti Theater of Operations (KTO).

Use your knowledge of the campaign planning process, operational art, and operational functions to assist you with your description. Issues to consider may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Commander's intent
 - USCINCCENT mission statement
 - Operational imperatives
 - Key operational objectives
 - Phasing
 - Command relationships
 - Centers of gravity and critical vulnerabilities
 - Deception
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Commander's Intent

Identify the key elements of USCINCCENT's commander's intent.

Theater Campaign Plan

Describe how the theater campaign plan supported the accomplishment of the national strategic objectives in the Persian Gulf War.

Issues For Consideration, Continued

Command Relationships

Describe the command relationships between the U.S. and coalition forces during the planning and execution of combat operations in the KTO. What were the major issues that had to be addressed in developing the command structure?

Role of Intelligence

Explain the role of intelligence in supporting the campaign planning for combat operations in the KTO.

Phasing in Operation *Desert Storm*

Describe the purpose and objectives of each phase of the *Desert Storm* campaign. How did each phase support the accomplishment of the overall strategic and operational objectives? What was the role of each of the service components, including Special Operations Forces and coalition forces in the execution of each phase? Use your knowledge of the campaign planning process, operational art, and operational functions to assist you in your description.

Logistics Considerations

How did considerations about logistics impact planning for Phase IV of the campaign?

Joint Force Functions

How did considerations about joint force functions impact the planning and execution of *Desert Storm*?
